



PATENT APPLICATION

the

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Examiner: M.L. Ferguson

Motoshi YAMAUCHI

Art Unit: 2854

Application No.: 10/629,579

Confirmation No.: 6447

Filed: July 30, 2003

For: KEY PAD, RESIN KEY TOP INJECTION MOLD, AND RESIN KEY TOP
MANUFACTURING METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

- ☒ A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98.
- ☐ As provided in 37 CFR §1.98(d), copies of the documents are not being provided since they were previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in parent application Serial No. _____, filed _____.
- ☐ A copy of each listed document, that was cited in the International Search Report or International Preliminary Examination Report attached hereto, should have been provided to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office by the WIPO, and the provisions of 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98 should have been complied with.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

CONCISE EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCY OF THE DOCUMENT

(Fill out if no English translation, partial translation or English abstract is available)

- ☒ Any document having neither English translation nor English abstract has been cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or international application, or its related application. A copy of the communication is attached hereto, accompanied by English translation of at least relevant part, if it is not in English. English translation of the document is not readily available; however, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted document (37 C.F.R. §1.98 and MPEP §609).
- ☐ The relevance of a document having no English translation or abstract is explained in the parent application above.
- ☐ Any document having neither English translation nor English abstract relates to the subject matter of the above-identified application. English translation of the document is not readily available; however, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted document (37 C.F.R. §1.98 and MPEP §609).
- ☐ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date or within three months from the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), OR is being filed concurrent with filing of the Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) or the Request for Continued Examination (RCE). No fee is required (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)).
- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. **No fee is required.** If, however, a first Office Action on the merits is issued, **no fee is required** in view of the statement below (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)).
 - ☐ a. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
 - ☐ b. No item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

The Certification under 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2) is attached hereto.

The Patent Office is **NOT AUTHORIZED** to charge deposit account 18-0013 in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 CFR §§ 1.97(d)(2) and 1.17(p). However, **ONLY IF** a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application has been mailed prior to filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, the Patent Office is authorized to charge \$180.00 under 37 CFR §§ 1.97(d)(2) and 1.17(p) in view of the statement above under 37 CFR §1.97(e). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0013 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No fee is required (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)). If, however, a first Office Action on the merits is issued, please charge deposit account 18-0013 in the amount of \$180.00 for payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

☒ 4. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. **No fee is required** in view of the statement below (37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)).

☒ a. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

☐ b. No item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2). The Certification under 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2) is attached hereto.

The Patent Office is **NOT AUTHORIZED** to charge deposit account 18-0013 in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 CFR §§ 1.97(d)(2) and 1.17(p). However, **ONLY IF** a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application has been mailed prior to filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)), the Patent Office is authorized to charge deposit account 18-0013 in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 CFR §§ 1.97(d)(2) and 1.17(p) in view of the statement above under 37 CFR §1.97(e).

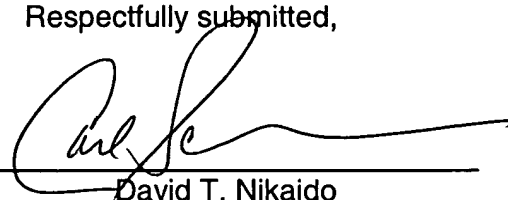
- ☐ 5. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)). Please charge deposit account 18-0013 in the amount of \$180.00 for payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p).
- ☐ 6. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the Issue Fee (37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)). Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. The Patent Office is authorized to charge deposit account 18-0013 in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 CFR §§ 1.97(d)(2) and 1.17(p) in view of the statement below.
- ☐ a. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. No item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2). The Certification under 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2) is attached hereto.

- ☒ 7. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0013 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 22, 2004

By:



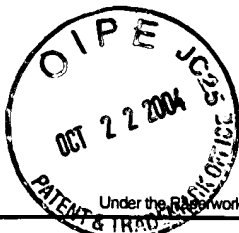
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Enclosure(s): Form PTO/SB/08A (listing and enclosing two (2) references w/
translation)
Office Action (in the corresponding EP application)

DC140792.DOC;2



PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/629,579-Conf. #6447
				Filing Date	July 30, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Motoshi Yamauchi
				Art Unit	2854
				Examiner Name	M.L. Ferguson
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	OHT-0020

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ³
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	BA	DE100 28 222	08-30-2001	MARUTAKA KANAGATA Co., Ltd.		X
	BB	JP2001-245036	09-07-2001	MARUTAKA KANAGATA:KK MORIPURA:KK		X
	BC	JP2002-052566	02-19-2002	SAI KARO		X

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	EP	Office Action, September 27, 2004	

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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